

# THE RED CIRCLE

A Mystery  
Romance  
of Heredity

By Albert Payson Terhune  
The Newest PATHE Picture, Now Being Presented at  
Leading Motion Picture Theatres of Greater New York

"The Red Circle," repeated Borden dully. "It is still there, on my hand, always there. And it has marked one member in every generation of my family. The person marked by it has always been a criminal. The 'Decoration of the Curse of Heaven,' I have heard it called!"

Novelized from the Pathe Photo Play of the Same Name by Will M. Ritchey.  
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## SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS

Jim Borden, master crook, is marked with an evil red circle on the back of his hand. This Red Circle has been on the hand of one member of every generation in the Borden family and has always denoted a criminal. Max Lamar, a young "crime specialist," learns that after June's death the Red Circle has been seen on the back of her own right hand. The girl whom Lamar admires, has recently discovered this circle on the back of her own right hand, the same circle that her father, Mary, who is horrified at hearing of it, and who confesses that June is Jim Borden's daughter. June, driven on by the spell of the Red Circle, commits several crimes, but all of them for the benefit of the poor or ill treated. Among these she befriends a Charles Gordon, a lawyer, who is unjustly accused of embezzlement. "Smiling Sam" Eagan, a crook, learns that June is Borden's daughter. He uses this knowledge to blackmail her into giving him shelter when the police are hunting him.

## CHAPTER XII.

### Like a Rat in a Trap.

WHILE Max Lamar was musing in miserable uncertainty over the problem of June's guilt or innocence, June herself was confronted by a problem quite as disheartening and far more perilous. Mary had told her of "Smiling Sam" Eagan's presence in the Travis house, and June realized all it might mean to her. The man, hidden in the attic storeroom, held her fate, her liberty, in the hollow of his grimy hand.

He had seen the Red Circle on her hand. He was crafty enough to know how fearful a hold over the girl this secret gave him.

June could bear the suspense no longer. Impulsively she got to her feet and crossed the room toward the door.

"Where are you going, dearie?" Mary in sudden anxiety.

"Going to see him," replied June. "I must!"

"No! No!" wailed the nurse. "There is danger—horrible danger. But I'm not going to speak before it. I'm going to see him and find out the very worst."

June had taken off her hat, and as she spoke she was stripping the gloves from her hands. The left glove came off first. Then, as the right glove was half removed, the wearer noted the pulsing Red Circle on her hand. Instinctively she drew the glove over it.

Meantime Mary had flung herself between June and the door, exclaiming in horror:

"Oh, my dear, my dear! You mustn't! He—he might kill you!"

"Kill me?" echoed June, bitterly. "I don't care! It would be the easiest solution of the whole problem. But he won't. Any more than a wise man would light a fire with million-dollar bills. Dead, he'd be of no use to him. Alive, I'm a fortune to him. And he knows it!"

"But, my precious!"

"The Red Circle is throbbing on my hand this minute," interrupted June, grimly. "See it! And yet I have no craving for mischief or crime. It is just a new manifestation of Jim Borden's evil nature—the trait that made him want to face his enemies instead of slinking away from them. Let me go!"

A Wasted Plea.

She shook off the old woman's appealing grasp and pushed Mary gently to one side, leaving the way open to the door.

"If you're going there," declared the valiant nurse, giving up the unequal battle, "then I'm going too. I'll keep him from harming my baby if anyone can."

June scarce heard her. Already the girl was hurrying toward the stairs that led to the attic. Mary scurried along at her heels.

Together they reached the doorway leading to the attic stairs. June flung open the door, and the two climbed the narrow and dusty stairway, first carefully closing the door behind them to prevent sound of the coming interview from reaching the ears of anyone below stairs.

June a step ahead, they emerged into the gloomy attic room, with its dimly seen piles of trunks and packing boxes and outworn furniture.

Mary paused, staring timorously around the dismal and cluttered room. There was no sign there of the man they sought. June drew a sigh of relief that merged presently into a sharply nervous intake of breath, as something moved in the shadows of the attic's far corner.

From an inconspicuous couch of patched quilts and moth-eaten pillows, between two trunks, a frowny head cautiously came into view. Sam, in his comfortable hiding place, had heard the steps on the stairs, and had peeped out to see who the intruders might be.

At sight of June and Mary he grinned pleasantly, got up, stretched himself and slouched forward to meet them.

"Well, well!" he rumbled, in mock cordiality. "It seems like this is my reception day. Welcome to Casto Eagan, ladies. I'd be spruced up a bit if I'd known I was going to have company."

"Ugh!" shuddered Mary in sharp repulsion as she watched his greasy smile.

"Same to you, old dame, and many cause you want to, but because you've got to. Because if you don't, you know I can tell a whole lot of interesting things about Circle Jim Borden's crook daughter."

"You beast!"

"You beast!" flamed June. "You beast!"

"Cut out the snappy stuff!" ordered Sam. "Treat me easy and you'll find me easy to treat. That's always been my way. But come any rough business with me, and you'll always find me on hand with a bucketful of trouble. Remember that. So don't call names any more. Huh!"

he rumbled in contempt. "You're a swell one to be talkin' to me as if I wasn't as good as you. Why, you and me is in the same paw. If you think we ain't, just take a look at that!"

As he spoke he caught her by the right wrist and tore away the loose-hanging glove from the back of her hand. The Red Circle blazed into view. June tore herself free from his grasp, just as Mary sprang forward to rescue her darling from the man.

Both women broke into a fierce speech. But Eagan's deep voice easily dominated and drowned their words of anger.

"I stay right here, my lady," he announced loudly. "And you'll see I'll make good on your promise to share profits with us. We—"

"No," said Farwell, coolly. "I don't expect that in the notice I had

loss peaceful than usual. For the bulk of the Farwell employees were gathered in the big yard of the factory holding an impromptu indignation meeting.

Farwell's failure to keep his word about sharing with his men the profits of the concern was the theme of their spokesman's harangue. The "co-operative profits" plan had been received with noisy joy by the employees. Gordon's warning to them might not keep his word. Since then days had passed, and there was no sign of the promised dividends. Wherefore the earlier discontent had merged into the present mass meeting.

From the building's entrance Farwell watched the gathering of the men in the yard. He knew well enough what was up. And he seemed to be shaking with wonder read the fragments of the spokesman's speech came to his ears.

At last, as he was about to go into his office, Farwell saw the spokesman and two of his audience detach themselves from the group and walk toward him. He understood the object of their visit.

The right hand slipped into the pocket of his coat, and his fingers closed about the cold butt of a pistol that rested there.

The men drew near. At sight of their employer, they halted, glanced at one another, and then stepped up to him; taking off their hats as they came.

"Mr. Farwell," began the spokesman, nervously, clearing his voice as he spoke. "Mr. Farwell, we are a delegation from the hands, chosen to ask you if you mean to make good on your promise to share profits with us. We—"

"No," said Farwell, coolly. "I don't expect that in the notice I had

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